



Gulfport Community Update

April 13 - 19, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport Fire Chief James Marenkovic would like to remind Gulfport residents that smoke detectors are available free of charge to elderly and low income households within City limits. Stop by the Fire Station or call Chief Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

Upcoming Events:

The City of Gulfport/Stetson College of Law Public Service Fellows **Fun in the Sun Day** event is Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m. - noon at the Michael J. Yakes Gulfport Recreation Center. FREE festivities will include an egg hunt for children ages 8 & under, basket raffle, inflatables, entertainment, food and fun! Children will also have the opportunity to climb into the driver's seat of their favorite vehicle: police car, police boat, fire truck, ambulance, garbage truck and many more. Bring a basket for the egg hunt and a camera to capture a photo with Peter Cottontail.

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent every Tuesday. For more information call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, visit www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket or www.GulfportMA.com or email gulfportmarket@gmail.com. Round up your unwanted clothes and visit the Clothing Swap to Benefit CASA at the Peninsula Courtyard, 2937 Beach Boulevard during Fresh Market, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 13. For more information email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com.

Stroll down to **Third Saturday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District 6 - 10 p.m. April 19. For more information call 322-5217.

Bring a chair to Gulfport Beach to enjoy the **Gulfport Yacht Club Multi-Hull Regatta** Friday - Sunday, April 25-27. For more information visit www.gulfportyachtclub.com, call 215-7982 or email hobiebob@aol.com.

Free Oral Cancer and Prostate Screenings will be offered in the Walgreens parking lot on Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information call 322-5669.

Local chefs will be put to the test during the **Top Local Chef Competition** at the Gulfport Casino on Sunday, April 27, 5 - 7 p.m. For tasting tickets visit www.LocalShops1.com.

Registration for the **2014 Summer Recreation Program** begins Friday, May 1 for Gulfport residents and non-residents currently enrolled in the School Year Child Program. Non-resident registration begins Monday, May 19 for a maximum of 30 children. The program lasts eight weeks and is available to children who have completed Kindergarten thru age 14. Hours of registration are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Registration fees are \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents. Summer camp program hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. For more information call the Recreation Center at 893-1068.

Enjoy unique shopping, entertainment and dinner at **First Friday Gulfport Art Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront district on May, 2 6 - 10 p.m. For more information call 322-5217.

The City of Imagination will host the **Building Myths with Brandi Palmer and Dorian Angello Art Exhibit** on Friday, May 2, 6 - 9 p.m. at 2726 54th Street. For more information call 321-1786.

Dance like it was yesterday with live music by the Impacs during the **St. Jude Knights of Columbus Sock Hop** at the Gulfport Casino on Friday, May 2, 6 - 10 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in

advance and \$20 at the door, available at the Casino & Beach Bazaar. Call 523-8025 for more information.

Check out the amenities at the **Boca Ciega Yacht Club Funday Open House** on Saturday, May 3, 14 p.m. This annual event is open to public with free sailboat rides, hot dogs & soda, door prizes and information about the club. 4600 Tifton Drive. For more information visit www.sailbcyc.org.

Join us at the Catherine Hickman Theater at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 3 for the **Sunsation Show Chorus Singin' the Blues for You**. Tickets: \$15 available at the Gulfport Casino or online at www.sunsationshowchorus.com.

Bring your appetite to the **Lions Club Pancake Breakfast** on Saturday, May 10, 7 - 11 a.m. and eat all you can for just \$5. The Lion's Den is located at 4630 Tifton Drive.

Get your friends or organization together for the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, May 10. Volunteers will meet at Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex shelter #4 at 9 a.m.

Looking to get rid of some stuff and don't know where to start? Join the Gulfport Neighbors and the City of Gulfport at the **Junk in the Trunk or on a Truck** event behind the Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street on Saturday, May 17, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Bring proof of Gulfport residency (driver license or utility bill) and furniture, appliances, tires, and other bulk items for disposal. Firearms, drugs, liquor, plants, paints, chemicals, or batteries cannot be accepted. Enjoy a cup of coffee during "Java with Josh (Lieutenant Josh Stone) and Zack" (Community Resource Officer Zack Mills). Parents registering their children's bikes will receive a free child's helmet. Join the Gulfport Neighbors network of volunteers: inspiring, motivating and uniting our neighbors to improve the quality of life in Gulfport. For more information call 893-1118.

Gulfport City facilities will be closed Monday, May 26 in observation of **Memorial Day**. The sanitation schedule will not be affected.

Get informed to be prepared during the **City of Gulfport Hurricane Seminar** at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5502 27th Avenue on Thursday, May 29 at 7 p.m. Admission is free. Pizza will be available in the Theater lobby for \$3 each beginning at 5 p.m.

MARINA

Pumped two thousand seven hundred ninety three (2,793) gallons of gas, and one thousand five hundred seventy seven (1,577) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred twenty three (123) vessels.

Assisted in thirty four (34) pump outs evacuating four hundred fifty (450) gallons of waste.

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed 2 40' sail cats, a 38' motorboat, 37' sail cat, 42' sail cat and a 36' sailboat this week.

Staff Activities:

- Cleaned dock boxes on pier five.
- Completed pump out maintenance.
- Procured drinks for resale.
- Repaired deck at fuel dock and gate at BCYC dock.

LEISURE SERVICES

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfport.us/gtv-615. Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Continued layout & preparation of new City brochure.
- Continued work on poster for Trolley transportation to Rays game.
- Distributed May calendar to all City facilities.
- Provided control room coverage for April 15 City Council meeting, uploaded video to City website and rebroadcast on GTV615.
- Updated May City events on Trumba website.
- Continued preparations for Hurricane Seminar.

Multipurpose Center

The Gulfport Multipurpose Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, & Fridays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for a copy of this month's calendar or download your copy at www.mygulfport.us.

The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborly Dining & Meals on Wheels** programs, offering lunches for seniors 60 and older. Call Joe at 344-2111 to inquire about the program or to lend a hand as a volunteer driver.

The **Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Tuesday & Thursday for qualified Gulfport residents 50 and older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information please see Gail or Rachel, or call 893-1231.

The Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center has **multiple volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, come join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with more than 50 programs, classes and workshops. Volunteers assist as Lobby Receptionist, Fitness Center Attendants, Reassurance Callers, Class/Activity Instructors, Special Events, Food Pantry, Clerical Support, Flea Market, Promotions, Bingo, Card/Magazine organizing, etc. Call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27th Avenue South for more information.

Florida consistently leads the nation in pedestrian deaths. Join us at 2:30 p.m. Monday, April 21 for **Walk Wise Tampa Bay**, an informational presentation specifically for senior pedestrians.

Check out the amazing talent on display during the **Gulfport Knitters Fashion show** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 23. Light snacks will be served following the show.

The Pinellas Point Nursing & Rehab Center offers a free **Blood Pressure Clinic** at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. The next clinic is April 24.

If you only see one live performance this season, make it the **Joe Koehler Senior Follies** at 7 p.m. Friday, April 25. Tickets: \$6 each or 2 for \$10. This laugh-a-minute annual variety show sells out quickly, so get your tickets today!

Anyone can have a stroke no matter your age, race or gender. The good news is that up to 80 percent of strokes can be prevented, and the best way to protect yourself and loved ones from stroke is to understand personal risk and how to manage it. Join us at 2:30 p.m. Monday, April 28 for the **HCA Health Talks Stroke Prevention** seminar.

Don't miss the final **First Friday Flea Market** of the season on May 2, 9 a.m. - noon.

Grab your sombrero and head down to the Senior Center **Cinco de Mayo Fiesta** at 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 6 for a taco bar, dancing and fun! Tickets are \$8 each, and **MUST** be purchased in advance.

The **Coffee Club** meets at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every first Tuesday of every month to discuss current events, the economy and investing in a relaxed, informal setting. The next gathering is May 6. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O'Berry over coffee and doughnuts.

The Springs at Boca Ciega Bay offers free **Blood Sugar Screenings** at 10:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of every month. The next screening is May 8.

Tony & Christine from the **Cell Phone Solution** will visit the Senior Center at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 8 to answer questions about smart phones. Bring your cell phone and questions.

Everyone is welcome at the **Dolphin's View Healthy Heart Cooking Class** at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, May 8.

Join in the fun at our next **Puzzle Party** at 11 a.m. Friday, May 9. Learn to play Sudoku, Binairo and much more. Prizes provided by The Puzzle Pages.

Concerned about your memory? Peggy Macaluso from the Alzheimer's Association offers a free **Monthly Memory Screening Clinic**, providing information and confidential advice to Gulfport Senior Center members the second Monday of every month, from 9 a.m. until noon. The next clinic is May 12. You **MUST** call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

Where have you been lately? Share your travel stories, pictures and tips during our next monthly **Bon Voyage Travel Discussion Group** at 1 p.m. Thursday, May 15, and let's explore the world together! The group hosts a new guest speaker every month.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate Senior Center members' May birthdays with cake, games and more at 2:30 p.m. Friday, May 16. This monthly event is sponsored by Dolphin's View.

Volunteers for the **Reassurance Telephone Program** call Gulfport seniors every Monday through Saturday between 7:30 & 8:30 a.m. To sign up for this program visit the Gulfport Senior Center and bring valid I.D.

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) is a free program offered by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and the Area Agency on Aging. Specially trained volunteers visit the Gulfport Senior Center every first & third Tuesday of the month to assist clients with Medicare, Medicaid and health insurance questions, providing one-on-one counseling and information. SHINE services are free, unbiased, and confidential. Call 893-2237 or 893-1231 to schedule an appointment.

Having a problem hearing on the phone? Florida residents with a hearing loss qualify for a **FREE amplified home phone**. Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc., Family Center on Deafness issues equipment at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every third Tuesday of the month. This program is paid for by a surcharge on all Florida households with home phone lines and all business lines, and has been available since 1991. Call 399-9983 for more information.

The **Community Law Program** offers free legal assistance to qualified residents 60 & older at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center every third Friday of the month. Call 582-7480 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Recycle your old cell phone, General Mills Box tops, Campbell's labels, can tabs and eye glasses at the Senior Center. Staff forwards these items to the proper organization for reuse, recycle or education.

GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service) offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65.00 plus \$2.00 per ride. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater, Neighborhood Center & Scout Hall

Casino (*last week's events*):

Sunday, April 6	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Mario DeLeon's Band & Ballroom Dance (Turnout 52)
Tuesday, April 8	12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance (Turnout 27) 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 57)
Wednesday, April 9	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 - p.m. - Swing Dance Lesson 8 p.m. - Swing Dance (Turnout 279)
Thursday, April 10	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 23)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & ballroom dance Admission \$7
Every Tuesday	12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$7 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$7
Every Wednesday	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7
Every Thursday	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

Catherine Hickman Theater (*last week's events*)

Sunday, April 6	2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present <i>Stepping Out</i> (Turnout 76)
Thursday, April 10	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>Stepping Out</i> (Turnout 78)

Friday, April 11	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>Stepping Out</i> (Turnout 95)
Saturday, April 12	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>Stepping Out</i> (Turnout 120)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*)

Thursday-Saturday, April 17-19, 8 p.m., and Sunday, April 20, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Stepping Out*, a comedy by Richard Harris. Tickets \$15, available at the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, Beach Bazaar, Couture'd Resale Boutique and the Gulfport Casino, or by calling 322-0316.

Neighborhood Center (*last week's events*):

Sunday, April 6	9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 17) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
Tuesday, April 8	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 13)
Thursday, April 10	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)

Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting
Every first - third Sunday	9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services
Every fourth Sunday	9:15 a.m. - Bible study
Every Tuesday & Thursday	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi

Scout Hall (*last week's events*):

Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Monday, April 7	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 8) 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 27)
Tuesday, April 8	10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 12)
Wednesday, April 9	11 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 22)
Thursday, April 10	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 8)
Friday, April 11	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 11)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

Every Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Every Monday	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion class 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga
Every Tuesday	10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing
Every Wednesday	10:30 a.m. - Yoga

Every Thursday	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class
Every Friday	11 a.m. - Line dancing

LIBRARY

Visit the **Circle of Friends Book Shop** during Library hours.

The Gulfport Library offers **free one-on-one computer instruction** on a first come basis every Monday and Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, April 7, 10 a.m. - *AARP Tax Assistance.*

Monday, April 7, 3 p.m. - *Science Club.*

Monday, April 7, 5:30 p.m. - *Teen Leadership Workshop.*

Tuesday, April 8, 11 a.m. - *Guardian ad Litem Informational Program.*

Tuesday, April 8, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, April 9, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, April 9, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone.*

Wednesday, April 9, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, April 10, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers.*

Thursday, April 10, 11:15 a.m. - *Committee for Library LGBT Collection meeting* facilitated by Dave Mather & Alex Hooks.

Thursday, April 10, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws.*

Friday, April 11, 10 a.m. - *AARP Tax Assistance.*

Friday, April 11, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, April 12, 11 a.m. - *Beginning Digital Camera Workshop* facilitated by Cathy Salustri.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, April 19, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day:* Enjoy flicks with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. For movie titles, call 893-1074.

Tuesday, April 22 - *SCORE Counseling:* Free & helpful advice from experienced business professionals. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Saturday, April 26, 11 a.m. - *Intermediate Digital Camera Workshop:* Cathy Salustri returns to show you how in this popular class. Space is limited. Stop by the Reference Desk or call 893-1073 to pre-register.

Thursday, May 1, 1 p.m. - *Beginning iPad Workshop:* Learn to use and enjoy your new technology. Pre-register for this very popular class at the Reference Desk or call 893-1073.

Tuesday, May 6, 3 p.m. - *Earth Scouts:* Activities for school-age children and teens. Parents welcome. For more information, email gratefulashly@gmail.com.

Thursday, May 8, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws:* Young readers share brief stories with Maya the very friendly certified reading therapy dog. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Science Club* for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5. For more information call Cailey at 893-1073.

Every Monday 5:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters Teen Leadership Workshop*. For more information email kellymenges@hotmail.com.

Every first Tuesday, 3 p.m. - *Earth Scouts*: Activities for school-age children and teens. Parents welcome. FMI, contact gratefulashly@gmail.com.

Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information call 916-0916.

Every Wednesday, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. For more information contact Robin Riddell at riddell@gmail.com.

Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*: Join us for stories & activities selected for toddlers & preschoolers in the Youth Services area around the rocking chair by the Easy books.

Every Friday, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*. For more information call 893-1073.

Library Services/Statistic April 6 - 12, 2014:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,044	691
Sun. 4/6	Library closed	
Mon. 4/7	381	132
Tue. 4/8	421	124
Wed. 4/9	256	104
Thu. 4/10	326	108
Fri. 4/11	321	112
Sat. 4/12	329	97

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room is reserved 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, April 26 for a Wedding reception.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Fifty six (56) children are registered for the **2013/14 School Year Child Care Program** for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for nonresidents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary. The program is licensed by the Pinellas County License Board.

Eighteen (18) children are registered for the **2013/14 Tot Time Program**, and six (6) for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turned 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$22 for nonresidents.

Contractual classes: Fencing, Gymnastics, Hatha Flow Yoga, Hawaiian Hula, Italian Conversation for Beginners, Italian for Travelers, Karate, Live in Color Mediation, Pickleball, Spanish for Beginners I & II, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Urban Survival Bootcamp, Women's Self-Defense, Yoga and Zumba.

Eighty nine (89) teens are registered for the **2013/14 Teen Night program**, a great hangout for teens in grades 6-12 providing recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects. The teens utilize the gymnasium, game room and outdoor area. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents. Program hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 6 - 9 p.m.

Four regular **Teen Councilmembers** attended the monthly meeting on Friday Afternoon. Advisor Marivel Gutierrez and Vice Mayor Christine Brown were also in attendance. Topics discussed; Advisor report; approval of the March minutes; upcoming events, Old Business and New Business.

Staff Activities

Alton Hooker used the school bus to transport a group of Gulfport Elementary students to Great Explorations in St. Petersburg on Thursday.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 16 new, 18 closed
- Water payments: 1120 totaling \$163,209.62
- On-Line Water payments: 180 transactions totaling \$9,759.26
- Bright House payments: 18
- Utility Bills Mailed 1635
- Payroll 04/11/2014: 159 transactions totaling \$167,161.21

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 49 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes

Life Safety:

- 1 C.O.
- 2 Smoke detector installations

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, May 15 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

CERT will provide traffic control and cook hotdogs for attendees during *Fun in the Sun Day* at the Gulfport Recreation Center on Saturday morning.

Staff Activities:

- Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Advanced Life Support (PALS) meeting at Bayfront hospital on April 15, and the Pinellas County Fire Marshal's meeting at the Pinellas Park Train Station on April 17.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Steindl & Firefighter/ EMT Jordan staffed a Special Rescue unit during SpringFest at Clymer Park on April 12, and Chief Marenkovic performed Fire inspections for all vendors.

- A St. Petersburg College EMS program student continues her ride along with Preceptor Firefighter/Paramedic Gerard Grady on the “C”-shift.
- Pinellas County Emergency Management hosted a webinar on April 15 for all Fire District Emergency Managers in Pinellas County to provide countywide coordination for planning and response to the imminent threat of a hurricane or other major hazard.

The Atlantic Basin hurricane season begins June 1. The National Hurricane Center is trying new color-coded maps this year to help clarify the dangers of storm surge for coastal residents. The graphics will be posted online and will show how far from the beach the water will spread and how high it will rise. Separate storm surge warnings similar to current tropical storm or hurricane warnings will be rolled out in 2015 as part of an ongoing effort to improve the way the hurricane center describes storm hazards.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Installed new gutter on entrance overhang at Recreation Center.
- Painted marquee sign in front of Casino.
- Replaced fan motor in air conditioning unit above theater lobby.
- Patched wall in kitchen at Senior Center.
- Removed four television sets from ceiling in Council Chambers and installed ceiling tiles.
- Completed 5 year inspection on sprinkler lines & system at Casino.
- Repaired short on electrical outlet in garage office.
- Ran errands to Tampa for Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor.
- Delivered outgoing mail to main Post Office for Administrative Services Department.

Parks

- Set up tables, chairs, barricades, temporary fencing, trash receptacles, etc. in preparation for SpringFest, and removed following event.
- Set up barricades and cones trashcans, etc. in preparation for O’Maddy’s Crawfish Boil, and removed following event.
- Inspected and reworked lights on Beach Boulevard oak trees, adjusted timers and relocated electrical outlets.
- Installed additional green mesh around beach volleyball courts.
- Replaced past event banners on Gulfport Boulevard with upcoming event banners.
- Inspected electrical supply at Clymer greenway and replaced GFCI outlets.
- Treated Clymer greenway and City playgrounds for ants.
- Installed new bike racks on Beach Boulevard.
- Removed old playground equipment from behind Recreation Center.
- Cleaned shop and reorganized irrigation parts.
- Replaced cigarette butt cans at Library, Scout Hall & Historical Building.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced carburetor on stick edger and repaired tires on mowers & Toro Workman.
- Repaired irrigation at Hoyt Field & Chase block.
- Hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Trimmed hedges, weeded, cleaned & mulched planter beds & grounds at Scout Hall & Neighborhood Center.
- Mowed & trimmed City complex, Veterans, Caldwell, Wood Ibis and Clam Bayou Parks, Marina area, Chase block, Dog Park, 14th Avenue/Pasadena entrance area, 55th Street medians, trail spur and Recreation Center grounds.

- Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas. Trash receptacles were emptied and the Bocce Ball courts were inspected for repairs.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.

Streets & Sanitation

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture and electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential automated trash containers and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned debris from City storm grates, inlets, and outfalls.
- Installed crosswalk signs at 61st Street & Gulfport Boulevard South.
- Assembled containers for new automated route.
- Assembled solar-powered barricades for events.
- Completed roadway surface work at 49th Street & 10th Avenue.
- Set up garbage and recycling containers for Springfest, and removed following event.
- Reset storm water lid at 58th Street & 20th Avenue.
- Graded and filled alleyway at Clinton Street & 31st Avenue.
- Disposed of old tires and vehicle parts from City Garage.
- Removed old sign from new bus stop area at 61st Street & Gulfport Boulevard.
- Delivered recycling containers to Scout Hall.
- Replaced 300 gallon automated container at Boca Ciega High School.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #31, 32, 33 and 34 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 35 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 3 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 80 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 2 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 old water meter with new style meter.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 15 backflow devices due in April.
- Repaired water leak on backflow at Town Shores Chatman building.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service at lift stations 1 & 2.
- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Daily per trip vehicle check inspection.

- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2, Police & Fire Departments and Multipurpose Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 2520 York Street.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced shore power 3-pin electrical connector on Fire Truck #P17.
- Replaced air governor on air compressor for air brake system on Sanitation Truck #44.
- Replaced front brakes on Police Vehicle #54.
- Ran Sanitation Truck #43 through DEF regeneration cycle and cleared check engine code.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the **New Business Checklist** on the City website at www.mygulfport.us under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section. For more information regarding business tax receipts call Lisa Giddens at 893-1063.

The onset of longer days means more time to work on home improvement projects. **Building Division** staff tries to take special time to work with homeowners embarking on do-it-yourself projects. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, due to hard economic times many are electing to do these projects themselves. Before embarking on home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and see what inspections may be necessary, or for an explanation of code requirements.

On anything other than small and simple DIY projects we recommend homeowners consider using a licensed contractor. Unless you are very handy and have the necessary skills to take on more complex construction projects, larger projects can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction methodology and management.

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

The Pinellas County Communications Department offers the following information when looking for qualified contractors:

Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board helps guide homeowners in hiring a licensed contractor for home improvements

Hiring an unlicensed contractor can put residents' homes in jeopardy, produce safety hazards and cost extra money to homeowners when work is not done correctly.

"Do your homework and follow the guidelines and resources provided to you by the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board," said Executive Director Rodney Fischer. "Why take a chance with your money and safety?"

The function of the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board is to regulate construction and home improvement contractors practicing in all Pinellas jurisdictions.

The licensing board can tell you if a contractor has a license. They must be licensed by the board or the state of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and be registered with the board. Licensed contractors have passed a competency exam and perform electrical, plumbing or structural work in compliance with the building codes.

The state requires licensed contractors to have workers' compensation and liability insurance and the board monitors their insurance coverage. Without these, if a worker gets injured on the job or damages property, the homeowner is liable. Many insurance policies will not pay claims if an unlicensed contractor was doing the work.

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at (727) 582-3100.
- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.
- An approximate starting and completion date should be included.
- All warranties including labor and materials should be addressed.
- A payment schedule should be contained in the contract.
- Do not give a large deposit before the beginning of work and do not pay the balance until completion.
- A three-day right to cancel rarely applies to home improvement contracts.
- Do not sign a blank contract or one containing blank spaces.
- Watch for non-refundable deposits and non-escrow accounts. In new home construction, part of the purchase price must be escrowed (this can be waived).

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit www.pcclb.com.

Code Enforcement activities continue in Section 5 of the City, also known as the Marina District which comprises the southeast portion of the City and generally extends south from 26th Avenue South to the water and east from 49th Street to the City boundaries.

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous.

To review the Code Enforcement Activities documents for more detailed information and a map of the Code Enforcement areas please visit the Special Documents section of the City's website at www.mygulfport.us.